St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society
1701 S. Wooster St.
Los Angeles, CA 90035-4332
USA

October 25, 2026

Dear friends and colleagues:

The peace and love of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all. This year marked the 47th Anniversary of our blessed journey to ***Preserve, Revive, and Promote the Christian Heritage of Egypt***. This past fiscal year was a continuation of the growth in raising awareness of the literary aspects of the Coptic heritage.

We have taken great stride in developing the framework for making available the entire corpus of Coptic literature that has survived so far. As the Coptic language is the cornerstone of our heritage, we are utilizing the two hand-held applications we developed to preserve the wealth of our literature: The Coptic Bible and the Coptic Literature. We are hoping to create other applications to bring out the work that we have been doing for all these long years. The existing applications are designed to enhance the knowledge of the language as well as the study and understanding of our heritage that is preserved in these texts. With regards to liturgical texts, we continuing to limit our efforts to textual material while encouraging and coordinating with others to work on preserving the musical heritage. Much was accomplished but still much to be accomplished especially with the new tools that technology affords us. However, we still run into headwinds in our efforts as other members of our community think Coptic is slowing the progress of the church. Looking at the history of other orthodox minorities in the Diaspora before us, such contradictory attitude has proven to be harmful and was abandoned. For now we will just continue the path that was chartered for us for decades and proven its value.

It is always necessary to remind this and future generations of the basic composition of our Coptic Heritage. Basically, it stands on four distinct pillars: Language, Literature, Art, and History. Though the Coptic language and its revival is of paramount importance to our efforts, we cannot ignore that other languages and cultures have shaped these pillars over the many centuries of our history. However, the revival of the Egyptian (Coptic) language will always be an essential and indispensable tool that we must promote and develop. For in it lies the essence of our identity and subsequently, not only our survival, but I dare say, our hearts and souls! It is the genuine link that binds us Copts in the Diaspora together with our brethren in Egypt, not in just mere words and grammar! Though an essential tool, it is not all we thrive to preserve. Pursuing this path, our activities continued to focus on understanding and studying the past and making sure it is an unbroken continuation and adaptation into the future. Such activities included education, publishing, gathering of the resources needed to accomplish such work, and encouraging and guiding those that are pursuing the study of our heritage. As the pioneers in reviving the Coptic Heritage among the Diaspora Copts, we are continuing to inspire many throughout the lands of immigrations to follow suit and become our collaborative partners. Now it is time to share with you the activities and accomplishments that you have generously supported this past fiscal year.

1. ***The Main St. Shenouda Center:*** The Center has been the main physical presence for the Society since 1992. Currently it houses multiple libraries that deal with all aspects of the Coptic Heritage from its ancient Egyptian roots to modern times. Over the past year we have acquired 56 new manuscripts containing over 4300 folios for a total of over 400 manuscripts with over 41,000 folios. We also acquired a digital copy of over 600 manuscripts from Egypt. We also acquired several new volumes for the book libraries, which also include large off-prints and periodicals related to the field. The book libraries are both in print and digital. It also served as a place for conducting online as well as physical classes related to different aspects of our Coptic heritage.
2. ***The St. Shenouda Coptic Cultural Museum***: This was established over 12 years ago in 2014 to showcase the history of the Bible in Egypt. On November 17, 2025, there was a partial collapse of the ceiling because of the intense rains storms we experienced in the area. Miraculously none of the items displayed were affected. However, we had to pack everything carefully and move them to an adjacent 2-room suite. It took over three months before the place was completely renovated and we were allowed to reconfigure the displays. As it stands

now, the museum has over 100 items that include facsimiles, original manuscripts, and first edition antiquity publications that chronicle the history of the Bible in Egypt from earliest times to the early 20th century. In addition, there are several other items on display. We were honored with the visit of Dr. Verena Lepper, the new senior curator of Antiquities at the famed Los Angeles Getty Villa, among other visitors.

3. ***Coptic Texts Apps:*** The Coptic Literature App along with the Coptic Bible App are envisioned to be the focus of our heritage preservation efforts. Since their release, there were installed in about 9600 devices for the Coptic Bible and over 2,000 for the new Coptic Literature worldwide. Currently, we are keeping both Apps as free Apps on iOS and Android devices to make it more accessible for the maximum number of Copts and others.
4. **Coptology @UCLA:** The Society continued our annual celebration of Coptic Studies at UCLA with the 27th Conference. This year's conference included 19 participants associated with about 15 academic institutions. The two-day program included only three online presentations from different time zones with the rest being in-person presentations. Participants came from the US and the UK. Over 70 people physically attended parts or all of the sessions along with a number of online guests worldwide. More information about the conference along with audio and video recordings of all the presentations is available at http://www.stshenouda.org/26onference2025.
5. ***Support of Coptic Studies at Claremont Graduate University (CGU):*** The Society's collaboration with Claremont Graduate University continues to flourish across multiple dimensions. Notably, we have provided financial and/or academic support to two doctoral students and an alumna of the school. Ms. Tawadros continues her part-time appointment as a Research Assistant at the St. Shenouda Center, where she is cataloging the Society's digital manuscript collection and contributing to other scholarly and administrative. Our second scholarship student, Mena Basta, is working on his doctoral dissertation with help and guidance from the Society. Our most significant and enduring partnership remains the advancement of the *Claremont Coptic Encyclopedia* (CCE), a landmark contribution initiated by Professor Gawdat Gabra during his tenure at CGU and sustained to the present day. In recent years, many new entries have been authored by distinguished Coptologists from around the world, further enriching the Encyclopedia's scope and scholarly value. The Coptic Studies Council at CGU, chaired by Dr. Saad Michael Saad, serves as the principal institutional body supporting these efforts. Dr. Saad also serves as Managing Editor of the CCE, overseeing its ongoing development in collaboration with Dr. Siuda and Mr. Basta. The current initiative involves hyperlinking internal cross-references across the Encyclopedia's 2,100 entries—a project designed to enhance both navigability and research utility. Honoraria have been extended to several scholars for their contributions to new entries and editorial work. Since its launch in 2012, the CCE has received over 1.6 million views, underscoring its global impact and enduring value to the field of Coptic Studies. The CCE is publicly accessible at https://ccdl.claremont.edu/digital/collection/cce.
6. ***The Collaboration with St. Mark Foundation for Coptic History (SMF):*** We have continued our collaboration with SMF during the year through our joint collaboration on the publication of the *Coptica* annual periodical. In addition, we coordinated between SMF and Coptic Scriptorium on proposed grant that involve implementation of AI tools in Coptic Studies with international collaboration.
7. ***The Society on Web and Other Electronic Resources:*** Society's website is continuing to expand with the addition of new pages and updating of existing ones, including the Society progress reports and annual conference information. The online Coptic Introductory course is continuing to be used for the Coptic Language curriculum at the St. Athanasius Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee. The Society is maintaining four Terabyte storage via Microsoft One Drive drives and Google drive. I addition, we are subscribing to other cloud-type services like Amazon, Flip page, Vimeo, and Zoom.
8. ***The Coptic Liturgy Symposium***: The publication of the 2025 Symposium proceedings is still in the editing stage.
9. ***Bishop Epiphanius al-Maqari Memorial Award:*** Based on the recommendation of the review board, headed by Dr. Mary Farag of the Princeton Theological Seminary (PTS), this academic year's award was given to Ms. Sarah Malak of PTS. Her winning research paper was titled, "A Critical Analysis of the Arabization and Reinterpretation of *The Life of Antony*." During the year we continued our commitment to offering this Award until it is mutually agreed by both parties to discontinue it, at the reduced annual amount of $2,500 at PTS. The

next installment is scheduled to be paid for later this year. The award will continue to be competitively applied for by students of PTS in the form of a submitted research paper on an aspect of Coptic Heritage and judged by the review board of PTS faculty and the Society as usual. We encourage all to contribute toward this endeavor on the special webpage set at http://www.stshenouda.org/bishopepiphaniusaward.

10. ***The Society and Coptic Scriptorium:*** The funding of the Coptic Scriptorium project has recently been restored as of communication received on October 6, 2026. The team was also exploring multiple grant opportunities. Our fellow member, Prof. Caroline Schroeder of the University of Oklahoma, is the head of the project. Hany N. Takla is a member of the team.
11. ***Education & Publications:*** The Society, in collaboration with ACTS, completed two consecutive semester-long Coptic Language graduate courses for Bohairic. Also, the Society in collaboration with St. Athanasius Theological Seminary in Nashville, TN, taught two classes online Coptic classes. Volume 24, 2025 of *Coptica* is in the final editing stage.
12. ***The European Academy for Coptic Heritage (TEACH):*** The Society continued to collaborate this year with online Coptic theological institution in the UK, TEACH. The cooperation is two-fold. First, we sponsored a class titled, *the Introduction to the Coptic Old Testament*, taught by Mr. Takla, which is offered annually. Second, some of our members are part of the editorial board of its new Journal of Christian Studies (JCS), including Dr. Gawdat Gabra, and Dr. Saad Michael Saad. For more information go to https://teach.eu.com/.
13. ***The 13th International Congress of Coptic Studies***: The Society contributed the pledged €3,000 grant to facilitate the participation of Coptic Scholars residing in Egypt. In addition, the Society awarded two grants to participants from the Society. We are grateful that the Society activities were recognized in the President's address on the first day of the Congress.
14. ***Proceedings of the 11th Congress of Coptic Studies:*** Publication date has been pushed back again by the publisher, Peeters Publishers for end of 2026!
15. ***Society Election:*** The results of the Society's officers' election was conducted and the results were the election of the following officers for a three-year period: Hany N. Takla as President, Emad S. Hanna as Treasurer, and Amany A. Hanna as Secretary. The following At-Large members have been selected and approved by the elected officers: Ramses Wassif as Vice-President, Maged S. A. Mikhail, Joseph Fahim, and Monee Hanna.

In this upcoming fiscal year, we have set the following main goals in addition to those mentioned above:

The St. Shenouda Center of Coptic Studies and New Regional Center: Our fixed expenses are primarily the rent and the maintenance of the now consolidated Los Angeles main Center and administrative office. This is the hub of our Society's activities and its physical presence that has gained Society in particular and Copts in general, worldwide respect over the decades in academic circles. The plan for this year is to further develop the collection and complete the cataloging of the enormous resources that have been moved to the current permanent location. The estimated cost in the budget is $65,000.

Society Electronic Activities: Cloud storage and web-based programs are becoming indispensable tools in carrying out our efforts in the preservation and promotion of our Heritage We are working on the secure display of our vast resources of primary and secondary resources, as well as our educational activities. Cataloging and scanning of the current inventory of books and microfilms will be part of the activities. Other activities include the word-processing of Coptic and Arabic texts to be included in the two Society-sponsored Apps, Coptic Bible & Coptic Literature. This will include complete redesigning both Apps in interface search, and a new feature of Coptic word analysis to name a few. We also are continuing our collaboration with the Coptic Scriptorium current 3-year project. Funding is included under the Academic programs and the scholarship budget items.

Funding the 2026-27 Coptic Studies at CGU and Other Academic Activities: Our projected support for CGU includes students' scholarships, compensation for CCE editing activities, Coptic Studies lectures, and perspective offered courses by visiting professors in support of the Coptic Studies Track. Also included is the annual allocation for the PTS' *Bishop Epiphanius al-Maqari Memorial Award.* Included also are grants to people working on texts related to the Coptic Literature App. Estimated net cost is $20,000.

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Coptology at UCLA: We have a tentative scheduled date for the 28th St. Shenouda-UCLA Conference of Coptic Studies for July 16-17, 2027. This conference will continue with the usual theme of general Coptic Studies. The estimated cost is $10,000 for covering basic costs such as housing and honoraria. Monetary Honoraria are usually budgeted in the academic programs category.

Publications: Volumes 24 of *Coptica* is in the final preparation stage. We are planning to publish volume 25 of Coptica as well. The estimated cost is $4,500, covering printing cost, printing equipment lease, and mailing cost.

Expansion of the Coptic Book and Microfilm Libraries and St. Shenouda Coptic Cultural Museum: We are continuing to develop the collections at the Coptic Library and the Museum as prudent and wise as we can be. Estimated cost is $25,000.

Financially, our General Fund income was about $136,900 with expenditure of about $111,436. The surplus was primarily due to accumulated deferred Fixed office expenses including rent. This time, the Society is still working on setting up an endowment fund for the future maintenance of the Society activities. To continue maintaining and expanding our work as we pursue the avenues that the Lord sees fit to open to us, we would conservatively need about $134,000 for the projected activities. The expenditure for last year as well as the projected ones for the upcoming one are as follows:

Category	25-26 Expenditure $ (% Of 111,436 K)	26-27 Proj. Expenditure $ (% Of 134,000K)
Fixed Office Expenses	$44,917 (40.31%)	$65,000 (48.51%)
Annual Conference	$ 8,943 (8.03%)	$10,000 (7.45%)
Scholarships/Financial Ass/Honoraria.	$ 2,500 (2.24%)	$ 5,000 (3.73%)
Computers /Software/Equipment/Internet	$ 783 (0.70%)	$ 1,000 (0.75%)
Printing & Mailing Costs	$ 3,103 (2.78 %)	$ 4,500 (3.36%)
Books/Manuscripts/Microfilms/Museum	$27,212 (24.42%)	$25,000 (18.66%)
SSEICS/Academic Programs	$22,495 (30.19%)	$22,000 (16.42%)
Office Furniture/Supplies/Misc.	$ 473 (0.42%)	$ 1.000 (0.75%)
Items for redistribution	$ 1.010 (0.91%)	$ 500 (0.37%)

In our nearly 47 years of stewardship of this work, we have taken steady and persistent strides toward our ultimate goal set above. However, maintaining the progress and continuing to expand our efforts is still needed. Through your continuing prayers and support, we will be able to continue with this sacred and vital mission. From our inception, this work was for the benefit of not just this generation but for the generations that will follow us. The fruit of our efforts was on full display in the growth of our UCLA conferences. We see this work as both Divinely inspired as well as mandated. **WE INVITE THE NEW GENERATION TO CONTINUE TO STEP UP AND WORK WITH US TO SUPPORT THE WORK THAT THEIR PARENTS HAVE FAITHFULLY PRESERVED FOR THEM**. May our Lord guide this work and multiply its workers for His glory and bless you all.

Sincerely on behalf of the Society,

Hany N. Takla, President

Membership Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPJ-y04pLlkbkHai7ecWHHUkUhmY2FpiACxtOLUTen0YABcQ/viewform
Contribution: http://www.stshenouda.org/society/donation
Website: http://www.stshenouda.org
Charity Store: https://ssacs.ecrater.com/

ST. SHENOUDA THE ARCHIMANDRITE COPTIC SOCIETY
1701 S. Wooster Street, Los Angeles, CA 90035-4332

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date: _____
Address _____
_____ _____ New
Telephone _____ _____ Renewal
e-mail _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP/Contribution (Mark all applicable choices)

_____ ***Coptic Heritage Online Subscription***
_____ ***Member (incl. Coptica)***
_____ ***Fellow Member (incl. Coptica)***
_____ ***Student Member (Not Incl. Coptica)***
____ ***Retired (over 60)***
____ ***Coptica Subscription Only (US/Canada)***
____ ***Coptica Subscription Only (Other countries)***
____ ***Coptic Studies @ CGU***

AMOUNT ENCLOSED / PLEDGED (Mark all applicable choices)

_____	***One Time Contribution (including membership contribution fees) or***	*Amount*	_____
_____	***Bi-Monthly Contribution, (including membership contribution fees) or***	*Amount*	_____
_____	***Quarterly Contribution (including membership contribution fees), or***	*Amount*	_____
_____	***Coptica Subscription only***	*Amount*	_____
_____	***Coptic Studies at Claremont Graduate University***	*Amount*	_____
_____	***Coptic Heritage Website***	*Amount*	_____
_____	***Bishop Epiphanius al-Maqari Memorial Award @ Princeton Theological Sem.***	*Amount*	_____
	Total enclosed	*Amount*	_____

Credit Card (PayPal, account: giving@stshenouda.org or https://www.paypal.me/StShenouda):
Email Address: _____

Membership/ Subscription year from October 1 to September 30.

AREA OF INTEREST

_____ *Coptic Language*
_____ *Coptic Patristics*
_____ *Coptic History*
_____ *Coptic Lives of the Saints (Hagiography)*
_____ *Coptic Canon and Documentary Law*
_____ *Coptic Art / Architecture*
_____ *Others (Specify)* _____

KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES

_____ *Coptic*
_____ *French*
_____ *German*
_____ *Greek*
_____ *Italian*
_____ *Latin*
_____ *Others (Specify)*_____

GRADES AND RULES OF MEMBERSHIP

Student (ST): 18 years of age or older, enrolled in post-Secondary School. Proof is required.

Member (M): 18 years of age or older, has voting rights, and requires sponsorship of two existing members of the Society.

Fellow Member (FM): Previous membership as a Member for 5 years. He is eligible to hold office in the Society.

N.B. *All membership classifications require good moral and spiritual characters, recommendation of the Membership Committee, approval of the Governing Board, and payment of membership contribution fees.*

SUGGESTED ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS / SUBSCRIPTION FEES

Student: .....$20 ($35 including Coptica)
Member *(includes Coptica)***:** .....$50 (Retired $30)
Fellow Member *(includes Coptica)***:** $75
Coptica (Regular): *(Subscription only)* .....$15 *US*, $20 *Canada*, $30 *others*
Coptic Heritage Online Subscription: *(Student)* .....$20 per 6-month or $35 per year
Coptic Heritage Online Subscription: *(Member)* .....$25 per 6-month or $40 per year
Coptic Heritage Online Subscription: *(Non-Member)* .....$40 per 6-month or $70 per year